The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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BORLAND'S "8 HOURS" REJECTED BY SENATE

Washington, April 12.—Congressman Borland's alleged "eight-hour" day for government office employes has been battered to pieces in the senate, which rejected it in the agriculture bill, and now the senate appropriations committee recommends that it be stricken out of the legislative bill.

According to the sound and fury created by Congressman Borland, if he could get his "eight-hour" bill through, the kaiser would surrender.

On its face, the plan to work these government employes eight hours looks good.

"Why, it's a trade union plan," the Missouri lawmaker insisted, again and again.

But the national federation of federal employes, assisted by the A. F. of L., started a campaign against this sham eight-hour day.

The unionists showed that under the present law department heads have the power to work subordinates any hours they choose, for which no overtime can be paid. No department executive asked for a change of hours, and Mr. Borland did not suggest that the appropriation bills be reduced one-seventh, although he insisted that the government should be saved that sum by working its employes longer.

The house first passed the Borland measure with the agricultural appropriation bill. When it reached the senate an attempt was made to include time and one-half over eight hours. This was defeated. Then the advocates of time and one-half and those who oppose the Borland plan in its entirety united and defeated it by a two to one vote.

The present outlook is that Congressman Borland's bid for immortality is rather uncertain. In the meantime government clerks can be worked eight, nine or 10 hours a day without extra pay, at the will of department chiefs. And they are working extra time now without overtime, although in normal times their workday is seven hours.

DON'T FAVOR CONFERENCE.

San Juan, Porto Rico, April 13.—Governor Yager has declined the request of organized labor in this island that he call a conference of employers and employed to adjust what is developing into a general strike of cane field workers.

The governor is not aware of a general movement for higher wages, and any dissatisfaction, he says, can be adjusted by conferences between the interested parties.

The governor also declares for law and order, but the workers' rights continue to be violated. Free speech and free assembly are denied and the police are charged with supplying strikebreakers. The unionists say that officials have denied strikers the right to carry the American flag at the head of their parades.

Santiago Iglesias, president of the free federation of workingmen, and organizer of the A. F. of L., has prepared a list of the 26,700 men on strike and insists that this situation should interest the island's chief executive.

SHIP YARD DIFFICULTIES.

Washington, April 13.—In urging congress to appropriate $60,000,000 for housing war munitions workers, Representative Nolan, a member of the labor group, said witnesses had testified before the committee on labor that in many instances, in munitions districts, three men occupied the same bed in 24 hours, and it is a common occurrence for two men to occupy the same bed in 24 hours.

"They are taking men from San Francisco and the surrounding bay region," he said, "to the Mare island navy yard; two hours a day on the train or two hours on the water, each way. Those men put in almost 14 hours, leaving home in the morning and returning in the evening to put in eight hours' work and the navy department pays for the transportation. Can you expect to get the best results from labor in this way."

WILL FURLOUGH FARMERS.

Washington, April 12.—Acting under legislation recently passed by congress the war department is preparing to issue furloughs to enlisted men to enable them to assist farmers during seeding and harvesting time. The furloughs will be granted without pay and allowances except that enough pay will be retained in each case to meet the soldier's allotment for war-risk insurance and pledges on Liberty loans. Furloughs will also be granted to groups of soldiers upon request of farmers when the time to be consumed in traveling from the cantonment or camp will not exceed 24 hours.

In making application farmers must show that they are in a position to pay the prevailing wage in that vicinity.

UNIONS START DAILY.

Seattle, April 12.—To put their new daily newspaper on a financial basis the central labor union has incorporated a $100,000 stock company. To check any attempt of outside influences to gain control of a majority of the stock, 51 per cent will be held by the central labor union. The spirit behind this movement is shown in the report of Editor Ault who stated that in one week $9,900 in cash or Liberty bonds had been contributed. When Delegate Wilson of the Truckers' union heard this statement he said the amount should be $10,000, and posted his bonds for $100.

UNION SHOP FOR PAINTERS.

Atlanta, Ga., April 13.—The union shop, an eight-hour day and wage increases of $3 a week are included in a new agreement negotiated by the Painters' union.

Hamilton, Ontario, April 13.—Painters and decorators have increased wages 5 cents an hour, making the new rate 45 cents.

Boston, April 12.—Nearly three-fourths of the painting contractors in this city have signed the new wage scale of their organized employes.

NO SHORTAGE IN BEAUMONT.

Beaumont, Tex., April 13.—Local trade unionists are protesting against advertisements by contractors for first-class mechanics, who are assured steady employment. Workers are warned to pay no attention to these claims, as there are enough idle men in Beaumont to supply every need.

WAGON WORKERS STRIKE.

Chicago, April 13.—About 1,000 auto, carriage and wagon workers have suspended work to enforce an eight-hour day and wage increases. One hundred shops are affected

PRESIDENT AIDS PLAN TO SAVE CHILD LIFE

Washington, April 13. — President Wilson has approved the federal children bureau's plan of a "children's year" at home by an educational campaign, which, it is hoped, will reduce at least one-third the annual total of 300,000 preventable deaths among children less than 5 years old.

President Wilson's letter follows:

"Next to the duty of doing everything possible for the soldiers at the front, there could be, it seems to me, no more patriotic duty than that of protecting the children, who constitute one-third of our population.

"The success of the efforts made in England in behalf of the children is evidenced by the fact that the infant death rate in England for the second year of the war was the lowest in her history. Attention is now being given to education and labor conditions for children by the legislatures of both France and England, showing that the conviction among the allies is that the protection of children is essential to winning the war.

"I am very glad that the same processes are being set afoot in this country, and I heartily approve the plan of the children's bureau and the woman's committee of the council of national defense for making the second year of the war for united activity on behalf of children, and in that sense a children's year.

"I trust that the year will not only see the goal reached of saving 100,000 lives of infants and young children, but that the work may so successfully develop as to set up certain irreducible minimum standards for the health, education and work of the American child."

8-HOUR DAY MUST COME.

Madison, Wis., April 13.—"The eight-hour day is inevitable and Madison's industrial heads may as well recognize this now as later," says the Capital Times.

"No defense can be made for the 10-hour day. The right of men to deal under the principle of collective bargaining is now almost universally recognized. Any attempt to stem the tide by discharging men who become identified with organized labor will simply show that those at the head of our manufacturing institutions have not the social vision to see the trend of events. The theory that men should be allowed to work over hours in war time has long since been exploded. England found that there is nothing in that argument—long hours lower efficiency and vitality with corresponding loss of production.

"The eight-hour day is here to stay. Even the government recognizes this. The employer who buys Liberty bonds and then works his men 10 hours a day is not a patriot—he has not the conception of true democracy. The best patriot is the one who starts his democracy at home."

STATE INSURANCE URGED.

Albany, N. Y., April 13.—Private concerns ought not to be permitted to make money out of the necessity of the employer and the misfortune of the employe, said Manager F. Spencer Baldwin of the state insurance fund, in urging the state legislature to exclude stock companies from the business of workmen's compensation.

"It is time to put a stop," he said, "to this form of exploitation which is costing employers millions of dollars annually in unnecessary overhead charges for compensation insurance. The stock companies and their representatives have, by their despicable competitive tactics, invited their exclusion from this field. The waste entailed by the present competitive plan of insurance in New York state may be estimated conservatively at $4,000,000 annually. It costs the stock companies approximately 65 cents in management and acquisition expenses to get $1 of compensation into the hands of beneficiaries; it costs the New York state fund about 10 cents to distribute $1 in compensation. There is no justification, economically or morally, for commissions and profits on workmen's compensation insurance."

ANOTHER ARIZONA OUTRAGE.

Jerome, Ariz., April 13.—The copper-financed "Loyalty" league, which deported 1,200 workers from Bisbee, last July, is doing business in the same old way. This time its victim is William Waldroop, chairman of the executive committee of the Miner's union.

While standing on a street corner the unionist was seized by armed vigilantes and dragged into a waiting automobile.

Waldroop was rushed out on the desert, where he was stripped, beaten and tarred and feathered and left in that condition. Governor Hunt has instructed the attorney general to investigate the case.

Last summer Waldroop exposed an attempt to murder him when Bulgarians, who were hired to do the job, told him of the plot and charged that a deputy sheriff, in the pay of the copper operators, was to receive $5,000 to get him out of the way.

MUST MAINTAIN STANDARDS.

Tacoma, Wash., April 13.—"Put on another shift," is the answer of State Labor Commissioner Younger to laundry proprietors in this city who want to work their women employes in excess of eight hours. The laundry men plead "war necessity" because of increased business from Camp Lewis. The state official has notified them that if overtime is necessary they should put on another shift, as there are plenty of unemployed women.

OPPOSE PRIVATE AGENCIES.

Boston, April 13.—The bringing together of those seeking work and those needing workers is, fundamentally and economically, a public and not a private function, said Charles F. Gettemy, director of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics.

"This work should be performed, therefore, through a public agency at the public expense, without any cost whatever to either the employer or the worker," he says.

REJECTS DEATH BENEFIT.

Cincinnati, April 13—The proposal to establish a death benefit fund has been rejected by a referendum vote of the International Union of United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers. The vote was 6,862 for and 25,322 against.

STATE UNIONISTS TO MEET.

Parkersburg, W. Va., April 13.—Officers of the West Virginia state federation of labor have issued the call for the eleventh annual convention, to be held in this city beginning June 3.

AMERICAN LABOR IS SELF-EXPRESSED

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST.

Industrial unrest in Great Britain resulted in a commission of inquiry. As the result of the work of that commission a reconstruction ministry was created. The problems of better organization of industrial relations has been given serious thought by all concerned and concrete plans have been put forth. Among these are the Whitley report, a plan formulated by employers, technicians and experts, proposals by the building trades unions and by the amalgamated society of engineers.

A report on reconstruction by its sub-committee was made to the British labor party. The document is comprehensive, fine in spirit, tremendously hopeful in outlook. It is inspiring to look forward into the future anticipating what labor may achieve in the years to come.

We gather courage for the struggle by appreciating the full meaning of the purpose to be achieved. The document which has been submitted to the labor party reflects the broad clarity of vision and the experience of its author.

The mind of the reader at once begins to consider the proposed program as to adaptability to American conditions. There is much that meets with the endorsement of the American labor movement.

But the first striking contrast of fundamental importance is that the British proposal deals with labor's achievements in the future wholly in political terms. The problems are formulated as political issues and the agency designated is the political party. In England the labor party seeks a wider field of activity, even domination of the labor movement. In the United States conditions are different. The heart of the American labor movement is economic. Labor's welfare and protection is regarded as fundamentally an economic problem to be dealt with by economic agencies.

Organizations of workers have so controlled their influence and force as to become a direct factor in the economic world where they can directly have a part in controlling and determining matters of interest to them.

American labor has always insisted that our labor movement shall follow principles which have been involved in their own experiences and in accord with their own best judgment.

The American labor movement has insisted upon the inherent dignity and ability of wage earners, and has declared that they are intelligently competent to deal with their own affairs in a democratic fashion and to determine and formulate their own policies.

This long-established practice of American labor has provoked criticism and hostility on the part of that group who have sympathy but whose understanding of labor problems is academic. This group in other countries is called the "intellectuals" and whenever given opportunity sought and seeks to dominate the labor movement.

The American labor movement has always been willing to accept the sympathetic co-operation of this group but has rejected all attempts at leadership or domination.

American workers insist that it is an essential application of democratic principles that they work out their own problems in their own way.

American labor resents the invidious distinction implied in the phrase used in the British document, "hand or brain workers."

American labor's position is based upon the belief that no labor can be dissociated from mental activity, and that the only real progress is that achieved by people moving forward in accord with a plan which they themselves have determined, formulated upon the best judgment of which they are capable. Any other method of progress implies leadership from without, a method essentially undemocratic.

The democracy of the American labor movement is of the same nature as that of our republic. It is more hearty, more sincere, and more far-reaching than the democracy of any other country.

So the American reader finishes the document entitled: "Labor and the New Social Order" with a feeling of exultation stirred by the hope of what the future may bring, but when he turns to concrete problems that must be worked out today and tomorrow, and through each day that follows, he finds little practical help for real achievements. In the future, as in the past, we must trust in the economic organization of the workers.

Whatever glorious reconstruction ideal may be painted by any word brush, it can have reality only through achievements by those who with hands and brains do the actual work of production. Whatever is of enduring value was the outgrowth of the experience of those in the industrial struggle and must have their full approval. Their daily decisions and achievements give shape and direction to future organization.

For practical purposes, the declarations and programs, however crude, coming from workers themselves, are valuable because they are evolved out of the experiences of the mine, the factory and the shop. Principles evolved through personal experience carry conviction because of their indisputable genuineness—a conviction that does not always follow from projecting one's mind into the experience of others or analyzing them objectively.

The American labor movement is essentially democratic. We want to maintain that democracy even though we may make a blunder. Freedom is worth even a mistake.

That which we call experience is but another term for mistakes made; it is from the mistakes that we gain experience. We learn to avoid the mistakes; we learn and apply the lesson, and make constant and uninterrupted progress on the road to a higher and better life. By progress and evolution make advances every day to a rational and inevitable new social order.

UNORGANIZED URGED TO WRITE, NOT UNITE

Indianapolis, April 13. — Unorganized railroad employes in the southwest are being urged to petition the federal railway wage commission to increase their wages, says the Locomotive Firemen's and Enginemen's Magazine.

This request is being made by "America's Eighty Per Cent Railway League," an unknown organization that has all the ear marks of a company institution. The league makes no reference to the advantages of organization, but intimates that the railroad brotherhoods are responsible for poor working conditions of the unorganized. The following warrants "big business" financing this league:

"We urge that a system be established whereby abuses that have crushed the hopes of the unorganized employes toward promotion in the ranks be eliminated and that the chance of the efficient common section laborer, the humble salary employe and the minor official be so arranged that their aspirations be not thwarted by the influence of any protected contracts agreed to by and between the railroad and the four organizations.

"In presenting our claims for salary increase and working conditions, we recognize the fact that the interest of stockholders and vast number of people whose money is invested in railroad securities be given the proper safeguard, and believe that after the reforms are made in the management of the roads, involving great economy, should the earnings be insufficient to justify a fair return on money invested, that, a readjustment of rates be established."

OPPOSE FORCED LABOR.

Philadelphia, April 13.—Ex-President Taft intimates to those employers who want strikes made a criminal offense to apply the recent agreement signed by representatives of labor, employes and the public. The latter was represented by the former president and Frank P. Walsh.

"Of course, the arrangement is an experiment which may fail. One or two just settlements will establish its (the labor board) prestige and these precedents will make its future success easy," he writes.

Mr. Taft says the agreement was not secured until many sharp exchanges were indulged in by the 12 men.

"The differences in discussion were sharp and for some time the possibility of agreement seemed remote. After a time the advantage of meeting face to face and talking questions out began to show themselves. Mutual respect for the motives and different points of view grew. The overwhelming necessity for a truce pending the war was recognized."

ORGANIZING NEGROES.

Birmingham, Ala., April 13.—A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn is directing an organizing campaign among negro workers in this vicinity who are employed in ore mines, blast furnaces and the steel industry.

In the organizing literature the attitude of Judge Gary of the United States steel corporation, who opposes the eight-hour day, is compared with views on this subject by the president, congress and a large percentage of employers in this country.

"Judge Gary and the Unitede States steel corporation cannot stop the wheels of progress," it is stated. "You can get eight hours. Join with the American Federation of Labor and bring about an eight-hour day, wages in keeping with increased living costs, improved working conditions and a democracy, instead of Mr. Gary's autocracy."

5 AND 10 CENT STORES PAY.

New York, April 13.—The 5 and 10 cent stores of F. W. Woolworth company, numbering 1,014, made sales in March of $8,712,278, or an increase of 20.41 per cent. The company will open 11 new stores before July 1. The 5 and 10 cent stores of S. H. Kress and S. S. Kresge increased sales 29.3 per cent and 24.78 per cent respectively over March of last year. These three concerns pay wages of the lowest order to their women and girl employes.

DELAY PROVES COSTLY.

Cincinnati, April 13.—When organized glaziers asked that wages be increased 5 cents an hour, and the employers refused, the workers asked on an additional 5 cents, rather than take chances on further postponement, the employers accepted the 10-cent demand.

$2.40 A WEEK INCREASE.

St. Louis, Mo., April 13.—Stereotypers' union No. 8 has signed a three-year agreement with the newspapers in this city, although the old agreement does not expire until next year. Wages are increased $2.40 a week, making the new rate $[illegible] a day

MRS. MOONEY OUT ON BAIL.

San Francisco, April 13.—Mrs. Rena Mooney has been released on $15,000 bail after 20 months' imprisonment. She was released on her own recognizance on other indictments growing out of the preparedness day bomb cases, last year. After Mrs. Mooney was acquitted, last July, on one indictment, she was held in jail by Judge Dunne until the state supreme court, in the case of Israel Weinberg, another defendant, gave a basis for her admission to bail. She is the third of the five bomb defendants out on bail. Edward Nolan was never brought to trial, and is out on bail. Israel Weinberg was acquitted on one charge, but was held in jail until the state supreme court ordered that he be released on bail. Warren K. Billings is in jail under life sentence, and Mooney is under sentence of death. The latter has appealed to Governor Stephens for a pardon as a result of the state supreme court's refusal to order a new trial because the claim that the prosecution used perjury was not made until the trial was ended and the record of this case, therefore, contains no reference to this grave charge against the prosecuting attorney and his methods.

HAGGLE OVER 25 CENTS.

New York, April 13.—At a time when every attempt should be made to induce seamen to return to the sea, and when the ship owners are enriching themselves beyond all records, they are disputing with seamen over a difference of 25 cents a day for subsistence when the vessel does not feed the men on board in port.

At a conference of organized seamen in this city it was declared that food is not obtainable at 75 cents a day, and even $1, which they are asking, is far too short.

It was shown that coastwise vessels are making no attempt to carry out an agreement made last summer with the government, the seamen's union and vessel owners. At that time it was agreed that all parties concerned should join in a call for former seamen to return to the sea, but as yet this call has not been signed in such a way as to be effective, the unionists say.

It is also stated that a large number of men have been drafted from the sea to the army and that those should be released and sent back to the sea.

KEY MEN DEMAND RIGHTS.

Washington, April 13.—Representatives of the Commercial Telegraphers' union have called Secretary of Labor Wilson's attention to their "organization day" on April 28, when they will publicly avow their faith in trade unionism.

These workers can see no reason why they should be victims of a system that denies them the right to unite.

It is charged that union men above the draft age are refused employment while the telegraph companies at the same time seek exemption from military service for non-union operators of draft age on the plea of industrial necessity.

Government telegrams of vital importance in speeding up war work are delayed, it is said, by the companies' refusal to avail themselves of the extra services of thousands of expert telegraphers.

SMELTER FOLKS HOWL.

New York, April 13.—Government regulation is interfering with profits, is the wail of Daniel Guggenheim, president of the American Smelting and Refining company, in his annual report. It is shown that this concern broke all records last year, but its profits of $18,665,625 are reduced about $3,500,000, mainly because of war taxes. Mr. Guggenheim objects to the government placing a value on the products of his company, without fixing the price of labor. He says the company is suffering from violation of "economic law."

1,112 MINERS KILLED.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 13.—The horrors of war are not confined to the area known as "over there," as the state department of labor reports that 1,112 workers in the Pennsylvania mining industry were killed last year.

Fatalities and serious accidents in which compensation agreements have not been filed or where the cases are not compensable under the law, are not included in this list.

WHY WAGES WERE RAISED.

Dayton, Ohio, April 13.—The Dayton Street Railway company has raised wages 2 cents an hour without solicitation by its employes.

Local trade unionists are associating this action with the appearance in this city of representatives of the Street Car Men's union.

BIG PROFITS IN ZINC.

New York, April 13.—The 1917 report of the American Zinc, Lead and Smelting company shows a clear profit of $1,539,162, against $1,964,257 in 1916 and $946,457 in 1915

BON VOYAGE TO BRITONS.

Washington, April 13.—The British labor commission, which has toured America under the direction of the American Federation of Labor, were tendered a lunch on their departure for home by the advisory commission of the council of national defense. The event was in keeping with the democratic spirit, and was attended by members of the cabinet, the military, trade unionists and other civilians. President Gompers, acting as a member of the advisory commission, served as toastmaster. Short talks were made by Secretary of the Interior Lane, Secretary of Labor Wilson and the Britishers—W. A. Appleton, Charles Duncan, Joshua Butterworth and William Mosses.

The visitors, who have been in this country several weeks, referred to the increasing war sentiment, as the one issue involved is better understood. They said that the size of this country would make it impossible for Americans to have the feeling that exists in their small, thickly populated country where one out of nearly every seven inhabitants is under arms.

In speaking of women labor it was stated that there can be no comparison with conditions in America and England. In the latter country, with 42,000,000 population, there are between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000 men in the military service. This has caused the employment of about 2,000,000 women. With proper organization, they said, it should not be necessary to employ women in America in the numbers demanded until this country has between 18,000,000 and 20,000,000 under arms.

TO PROTECT SOLDIERS.

Washington, April 13.—Senator Hoke Smith has introduced a bill which would restore to their former capacity, as much as possible, through vocational education, persons discharged from the military service.

The plan was developed by the federal board for vocational education, and is the first attempt of the government along this line.

The bill authorizes the board to prescribe courses of training and to pay, when necessary, the expense of travel, lodging, subsistence and other necessary expenses of persons while following the prescribed courses.

Using the experience of Canada as a basis, it is estimated that of 1,000,000 men sent overseas, 100,000 will be returned unfit for military service. Of this latter number 80,000 will not require vocational re-education, but 10,000 will require complete and 10,000 will require partial vocational re-education.

WISCONSIN IS LOYAL.

Madison, Wis., April 13.—While the loyalty of this state is being discussed by people who judge of a few surface occurrences, Adjutant General Orlando Holway states that every fifteenth American soldier in France is from Wisconsin.

Lieutenant George M. Wiechelt reports that Milwaukee has exceeded its quota for the navy by a big margin and that nowhere has he found better co-operation and more enthusiastic support of the government than in that city.

TOBACCO WORKERS UNITE.

Durham, N. C., April 13.—Tobacco workers employed at this place by the tobacco trust have organized and are now struggling for a foothold against anti-union systems of the American Tobacco company.

Trade union officials say that wages of these employes range from $6 to $7 a week, with a 13-hour work day not infrequent and few employes receiving more than straight time for overtime.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Augusta, Ga., April 13.—The Typographical union's new wage agreement increases rates $4.50 a week for machine men on afternoon newspapers and $3 a week for floor men. On morning newspapers rates are increased $3 a week.

The contract calls for the usual union-shop conditions which the Typographical union can enforce because of 100 per cent organization.

WOMAN ON LAW BOARD.

London, England, April 13.—An unusual event in connection with the British trade union movement is the election of Miss Margaret Bondfield to the parliamentary committee of the British trades union congress.

NO MINIMUM WAGE PROBE.

Albany, N. Y., April 13.—The state senate has defeated Senator Wagner's bill for the appointment of a commission to investigate a minimum wage for women and children workers in this state.

MAILERS RAISE WAGES.

Newark, N. J., April 13.—Mailers employed on local newspapers have secured a new wage scale of $28 a week, which will be increased to $30 the first of next year

UNION SHIP BUILDERS SET COUNTRY'S PACE

New York, April 13.—The New York World says that Seattle ship builders are working wonders and points to the record of the Skinner & Eddy corporation of that city, which has turned over to the government 12 steel vessels, three of which have been the only ones delivered on an order of the United States emergency fleet corporation. Rear Admiral Bowles had this record in mind, it is stated, when he declared that this country can build ships in record time.

On May 29 last, less than a year ago, the United States emergency fleet corporation gave Skinner & Eddy an order for six ships, each of 8,800 dead-weight tons. Three of these are already at sea, and the fourth has just been delivered to the government. On January 15, less than 90 days ago, the emergency fleet corporation gave an order for 14 more ships. The first of these will be delivered May 15, four months after the contract was signed. It is stated that work in some of the eastern yards is four months behind schedule.

The last vessel delivered by the Skinner & Eddy concern was completed from keel laying to sea duty in 82 working days. It was turned over to the government 81 days earlier than the company promised. Ship officials figure that from the five ways at this yard over 20 vessels will be turned out this year.

These records are of especial interest to trade unionists because the Skinner & Eddy yard is strictly union. At a hearing before a government board in Seattle recently, officers of this company declared they would not employ any one but a member of organized labor.

PLEADS FOR MOONEY.

Washington, April 13. — President Gompers has forwarded this telegram to Governor Stephens of California:

"With all of the facts of the mistrial in the case of Tom Mooney before you, much of which I have had before me, and inasmuch as the entire situation is in your hands to dispose of as your judgment directs in the cause of justice, fair dealing and mercy, I appeal to you in the name of the American Federation of Labor to exercise the great power which is vested solely in you. The highest court in California declared that it could not go outside of the record in the case, when almost incontrovertible evidence has been discovered since the trial that conviction was had largely upon manufactured and perjured evidence. If the courts cannot or do not take cognizance of these facts, certainly you, as governor of the great state of California, have the right, the jurisdiction and the power, and I trust you will exercise it."

MAY MAKE POWER AT MINES.

Philadelphia, April 13.—Transmission of electrical power over high voltage wires to the great industrial plants at New York and other seaboard cities to do away with the necessity of transporting coal from the mines to the industries may prove to be the beginning of a revolution in industrial power.

Fuel Administrator Garfield has assigned experts to investigate this question, which may result in the establishment of central generating plants at the anthracite mine centers as feeders to communicate within a radius of 150 miles. It is suggested that the government finance the project.

A large saving of coal would be effected and low grades of coal now going to waste could be employed for the creation of the electrical power at the mines.

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

Indianapolis, April 13.—Editor Harlan, of the United Mine Workers' Journal, takes this pot shot at an element that all trade unionists are well acquainted with:

"When we hear some of the big employers of labor and captains of industry with whom we have had dealings in the past speak so feelingly of their love for democracy, we are prompted to consult the dictionary to make sure the darned word means just what we think it means."

WANT WAGE LAW ENFORCED.

Detroit, Mich., April 13.—The local federation of labor has asked the city attorney to enforce the minimum wage law. This act was written into the city charter, two years ago, by a vote of the people and has been resisted by city officials since that time. As the law provides for the prevailing wage to city employes, anti-union employers are not interested in this law enforcement.

CONTRIBUTIONS BARRED.

Boston, April 13.—The state senate has passed a bill to prohibit city employes from contributing to political campaigns. Under this legislation municipal employes can not be assessed for political purposes by department heads

NO FAITH IN PEOPLE, BUT TALKS DEMOCRACY

San Francisco, April 13.—Imitation Americans who talk of a democracy "that must be controlled by an intelligent minority" are not popular with the editor of the San Francisco Bulletin.

In an address at the University of California, Dr. Hutchins, president of the University of Michigan, said he feared that after the war "the world will get a democracy unrestrained, unregulated, without legally constituted leadership; without the leadership to represent authority."

"This conception of democracy," says the Bulletin, "seems to be as far from that which inspired the Declaration of Independence, as it is from that which prevails at Berlin.

"The only choice we have, in the long run, is between government by a minority and government by the majority. When a man talks of restraining and regulating democracy he means that he does not trust the decisions of the majority. The answer of the democrat is that no minority in history has ever ruled justly, and that, while the opinions of the majority may be at times utterly unwise and utterly unjust, they are in the course of generations the nearest we can come to wisdom and justice. The democrat is willing to trust the majority to turn eventually to the right leaders and does not see how the right leaders can be picked out by any process of regulating and restraining that a minority can devise.

"But the final answer to these pious fears of popular rule will be the state of mind in which the armies come home from the trenches. Men do not offer their bodies for nothing, to be torn, burned and blown to pieces. The soldiers of the allies are not fighting to starve democracy, or put chains on her, but to set her free. On their return they will not readily see their control over their governments limited and restrained in such a way as to give disproportionate power to minorities. They were trusted to save the world and they and their comrades of the bench and forge will insist on being trusted to do their full share in governing the world."

OUR FIRST YEAR OF WAR.

Washington, April 13.—On April 6 last year congress declared that a state of war exists between this country and Germany. Since then the army has been increased from 212,034 to 1,652,725, and the navy from 82,738 to 351,000. The second call for the army draft provides for an additional 800,000. During the year 123 new vessels have been built, 949 new vessels contracted for and 800 vessels purchased or chartered. New battleships to the number of 15 have been authorized or are being built and 108 other naval vessels are authorized and building. Notable economic steps include fixing the price of wheat at $2.20 a bushel, fixing prices and controlling production of coal and other commodities and controlling railroads and shipping.

The first two Liberty loans yielded $6,616,532,200; raised by taxation and tariffs, $1,535,000,000; by war savings certificates and stamps, $140,000,000; estimated from special war taxes (income, excess profits and corporation taxes), $3,500,000,000.

War appropriations include $4,436,329,750 loaned to allies, $7,464,771,756 to the army and $3,333,171,665 to the navy. The latter includes several pending appropriations.

REZIN ORR SCHOOL.

Chicago, April 13.—Edwin S. Davis, president of the Chicago board of education, acted as chairman at the dedication of one of Chicago's most imposing public schools, which will be known as the Rezin Orr school, in honor of the late treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America. Mayor Thompson paid a tribute to the life work and sincerity of the deceased trade unionist, whom he knew personally.

"Naming an institution of learning after a trade union official is a new departure for public officials," says the Union Leader, official paper of Chicago's organized street car men.

"It is an evidence that the work of the trade union and its officers is being better understood by men in public life. Though this recognition has been tardy, it has come, and the great work the trade union is doing for humanity will be recognized more and more as time progresses."

LABOR SHORTAGE A MYTH.

Baltimore, April 13.—Two-thirds of the farm labor shortage is imaginary and the one-third can be remedied, said Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor, in an address in this city.

"A nation-wide investigation by the department of labor," said Mr. Post, "shows that outside of truck gardeners, there is no shortage at present, except in the south. It is significant that in states where wages average $50 to $75 a month, there is no shortage. But this cry is heard in localities where $15 to $40 a month prevails."

The speaker said there were enough idle in the cities to fill existing gaps but the chief reason for the failure of city laborers to go to the country was the low wages and poor working conditions.

TAXI DRIVERS ADVANCE.

Rochester, N. Y., April 13.—Chauffeurs employed by the Rochester Taxi company suspended work when they were denied arbitration. The company then agreed to a six-day week of 10 hours a day. Wages were increased from $15 and $18 a week to $22. The former work day was 12 hours.

Springfield, Ill., April 13.—Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union No. 73 has signed an agreement with the Team Owners' association which raises wages $4.50 a week.

TAILORS RAISE WAGES.

Cleveland, April 13.—Robert Kummer, merchant tailor in this city, is another of those gentlemen who has abandoned his "I-never-will-sign-an-agreement" attitude. His contract with Journeymen Tailors' union No. 162 calls for wage increases that average $5 a suit.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Newark, N. J., April 13.—Printing Pressmen's union No. [illegible] has secured wage increases from [illegible] to [illegible] per cent for its members employed in commercial shops.

WAR-TIME LABOR BOARD CREATED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, April 13.—President Wilson has announced the creation of a national war labor board during the period of the war to adjust disputes outside the jurisdiction of existing mediation laws.

The plan approved by the president was recommended by five trade unionists, five employers and ex-President Taft and Frank P. Walsh, representing the public. The president has appointed the same men as members of the national war labor board. The unionists are: Presidents Hayes of the miners, Johnston of the machinists, Hutcheson of the carpenters, Rickert of the garment workers and Victor Olander, second vice president of the seamen.

Committees are to be named in different parts of the country to hear local controversies, and when they fail to effect settlements the cases will be referred to the national board.

The president's proclamation calls upon all employers and employes to enlist the aid of the board in settling labor difficulties, and urges that there be no discontinuance of work which would interfere with production while negotiations are in progress.

WANTS ARBITRATION NOW.

St. Paul, Minn., April 13.—Adjustment of industrial disputes through the state board of arbitration urged in a proclamation issued by Governor Burnquist, who requests members of the state board "to confer at the earliest possible opportunity with labor organizations and with employers' associations in order that an understanding may at this time be reached whereby disputes involving unionism or non-unionism and other controversies in strikes or lockouts shall be eliminated during the war."

The governor states that "labor conditions in Minnesota should be made as stable as possible so that our state may be in a position to receive additional contracts from the federal government and other sources."

The above would indicate that the recent strikes in the twin cities, because of the street car company's attitude, and its refusal to accept government mediation, has not hurt Minnesota, and that anti-union employers are beginning to realize that in Sam may withhold contracts from communities that will not listen to him when he is attempting to adjust industrial disputes.

In the street car strike the president's mediation commission made certain recommendations that were accepted by the workers. In a public letter, John H. Walker, member of the commission, said:

"The company has positively refused to agree to the findings of the commission as a settlement of the existing dispute, notwithstanding the fact that this commission represents the president of the United States in this matter."

R. R.'S DID NOT PROTEST.

Washington, April 13.—Director General of Railroads McAdoo has written to A. O. Wharton, president of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, that he has not received a single protest from any railroad official because of order No. 8, which prohibits trade union discrimination.

"I feel," says Mr. McAdoo, "that it is most important in this new era of railroading in America that railroad officials and railroad employes shall not live any longer in an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust.

"I need not tell you how deeply I appreciate the assurances of loyalty and patriotic support I have been receiving from railroad employes connected with all kinds of railroad work since the government took possession and control of the railroads."

The A. F. of L. railway employes' department had been informed that managers had protested against the issuance of order No. 8. Officers of the department suggested to their membership to notify the railroad director that they were behind him.

WANTS WORKERS HOUSED.

Washington, April 13.—To speed up war munitions congress was asked for appropriations running into hundreds of millions of dollars to provide housing accommodations for men employed at these plants. Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the war industries board, presented the matter to the senate military affairs committee and asked for prompt action.

Mr. Baruch told the committee that the production in most of the large factories engaged in war work will be doubled if not trebled if accommodations are provided for the workmen. The lack of suitable housing, he said, is proving the greatest handicap to the plants.

The house has passed a bill which appropriates $60,000,000 to the secretary of labor for housing purposes. This legislation is pending in the senate.

R. R. SHOP MEN UNITING.

Pittsburg, Pa., April 13.—The five principal shops of the Pennsylvania railroad have been nearly 95 per cent organized since the government took control of the railroads. These shops are located at Columbus, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Logansport and Indianapolis, Ind.

The Pennsylvania railroad under private management has camouflaged its anti-unionism with "open shop" claims, but the increase of trade unionism along this line indicates the sentiment of employes when privileged to act as free men.

PAINTERS MAKE GAINS.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 13.—Organized painters in this city are jubilant over a six months' organizing campaign, which has unionized the local painting industry. Wages were increased on April 1 to $4.50 a day, with $5 a day on September 1 and a 44-hour week. One incident connected with this campaign is significant—the employers appeared before the union and discussed wage increases.

GET 48-HOUR WEEK.

Boston, April 13.—Organized raincoat makers have secured a 48-hour week and a minimum wage of $21 during this period.

EARNED $4,896,952.

New York, April 13.—Profits of the National Lead company were $4,896,952 last year. This is an increase of $[illegible] over the preceding year.